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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-second session
4-29 June 2012
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Imelda **Smolcic** (Uruguay)

Addendum

Programme questions

Evaluation (item 3 (c))

Triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-ninth session on the thematic evaluation of lessons learned: protocols and practices

1. At its 3rd meeting, on 5 June 2012, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-ninth session on the thematic evaluation of lessons learned: protocols and practices (E/AC.51/2012/3).

2. The Director of the Inspection and Evaluation Division of OIOS introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegations noted the importance of institutionalizing the use of lessons learned in programme planning and implementation. They expressed concern that no Secretariat-wide definition had yet been established and that Member States did not have systematic access to lessons learned. Questions were raised as to whether or not incorporating access to lessons learned into Umoja had been considered.

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4. Delegations expressed concern regarding the limited analysis in the report. They requested more information on why two recommendations had not been implemented, who was responsible for their implementation and what further actions needed to be taken for their implementation. A question was also raised as to whether or not the limited analysis in the report related to OIOS initiatives to streamline its reporting.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee took note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-ninth session on the thematic evaluation of lessons learned: protocols and practices (E/AC.51/2012/3) and recommended that the General Assembly endorse the conclusion contained in paragraphs 38 and 39 of the report. In that regard, it also expressed concern that recommendations 1 and 4 had not been implemented.

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that OIOS clearly identify and analyse the underlying reasons for such non-implementation and provide recommendations on the way to remedy the situation in the context of its report to the Committee at its fifty-third session.

7. The Committee, considering the importance of lessons learned as valuable ways of strengthening knowledge management and improving organizational performance, expressed concern regarding the absence of a single, common definition of the concept in the Secretariat, and regarding the lack of a systematic approach. In that regard, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it request the Secretary-General to take further steps to develop a single, common definition of lessons learned and to report thereon to the Committee at its fifty-third session.

8. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to explore means to capture, analyse and share the benefits of lessons learned, including through Umoja, and/or other information and communications technology enterprise-wide means of knowledge management, and to report thereon to the Committee at its fifty-third session.

9. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to coordinate exploring the provisions of paragraph 8 above in other United Nations common system entities and to report thereon to the Committee at its fifty-third session.

10. The Committee, in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/276, reiterated the need to develop a mechanism for Member States to have systematic access to lessons learned.